GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4647
ANSWERED ON:09.05.2007
BENEFITS OF GRANTS
Jha Shri Raghunath

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the population living below the poverty line have not received any benefit from eight per cent growth rate of the country during the last four years and about 10 per cent of the all-India rural population is living at just Rs. 9 per day;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to uplift their conditions?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN)

(a): The annual average growth rate of economy measured in terms of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) at 19992000 prices during the year 1999-2000 to 2004-05 was 6.0 per cent. The percentage of poor in 2004-05 is 21.8% comparable with the poverty estimate of 1999- 2000, which was 26.1 percent. It shows that poverty has reduced and the poor have received the benefit of the growth rate of the country.

Based on the percentage of rural population below specified levels of monthly per capita consumption expenditure (MPCE) given in the Report No. 508(61/1.0/1), `Level and Pattern of Consumer Expenditure, 2004-2005`, of NSS 61st Round (July 2004 − June 2005) brought out by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India, the per capita consumption expenditure of 9.9% of the rural population in the country is less than Rs.9.00 per day or Rs. 270 per month in 2004-05.

(b): The benefit of the growth of the economy of the country to the people living below the poverty line depends on a complex set of factors. In addition to the rate of income growth (measured by the rate of growth of Gross Domestic Product), its distribution across sectors and regions, and between occupation and social class, as well as the rate of growth of population also need to be taken into account to explain the change in the incidence of poverty in the country.

(c): The government has adopted a three pronged strategy to uplift the living conditions of the poor people in rural areas :
(i) acceleration of economic growth with a focus on sectors which are employment intensive;
(ii) human and social development through provision of basic minimum services; and
(iii) targeted anti- poverty programmes.

In rural areas, the programmes which are being implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development for upliftment of BPL families are (i) Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY), (ii) Swaranjayati Gram Swarozar Yojana (SGSY),(iii) Indira Awas Yojana(IAY), and (iv) National Rural Employment Guarantee Act.